

Message Text

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ACTION IO-06

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AMCONSUL CAPETOWN PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 1106

LIMDIS

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, US, SF, WA
SUBJECT: NEXT STEPS ON NAMIBIA: VENUE OF DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN
THE FIVE AND THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT

REF: USUN 1094

1. WE CANNOT OVEREMPHASIZE THE STRENGTH AND UNANIMITY OF
THE OPPOSITION OF OUR BRITISH, FRENCH, CANADIAN AND GERMAN
PARTNERS HERE TO COMMENCING IN-DEPTH DISCUSSIONS ON NAMIBIA
WITH THE SAG IN NEW YORK. OUR SUGGESTION FOR NEW YORK, WHICH
WE CONVEYED AND DISCUSSED AT LENGTH AT MEETING OF THE FIVE
MISSIONS ON 12 APRIL, REPORTED REFTEL, HAS EVOKED BOTH SHARP
OPPOSITION AND A MEASURE OF DISMAY.

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2. THE REASONS WHY THE OTHER FOUR MISSIONS BELIEVE DISCUSSIONS
WITH THE SAG SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT IN CAPETOWN ARE:

A. THE INITIAL DEMARCHE BY THE FIVE WAS CONVEYED IN
CAPETOWN. NO OTHER VENUE FOR THE DEMARCHE WAS PROPOSED
BY ANY OF OUR GOVERNMENTS. CAPETOWN WAS THE
RIGHT PLACE FOR THE DEMARCHE AND REMAINS THE

RIGHT PLACE FOR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS.

B. THE SAG, ITS PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER ARE IN CAPETOWN, WHICH IS BOTH THE LOCUS OF SOUTH AFRICAN POWER AND THE PLACE WHERE AUTHENTIC AND RELIABLE INTERLOCUTORS AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF THE SAG ARE TO BE FOUND.

C. BY CONTRAST, THERE IS NO SOUTH AFRICAN AMBASSADOR IN NEW YORK, THE CHARGE BEING RECENTLY ARRIVED COUNSELLOR ADRAAIN EKSTEEN WHO IS WITHOUT INFLUENCE WITH HIS GOVERNMENT. NO AGENT SENT OUT BY THE SAG FOR TALKS IN NEW YORK WITH THE FIVE COULD BE AT THE LEVEL OF RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PM OR FM, BOTH OF WHOM ARE AVAILABLE IN CAPETOWN.

D. THE SAG HAS TRADITIONALLY EXHIBITED A STRONG AVERSION FOR THE NEW YORK/UN ATMOSPHERE. IT WOULD LIKELY TREAT A REQUEST FOR COMMENCEMENT OF THE TALKS IN NEW YORK AS INDICATING A SUBSTANTIALLY LESSER LEVEL FOR SERIOUSNESS ON THE PART OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE FIVE.

E. FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE CONTACTS AMONG THE FIVE, WHICH HAVE GONE ON THROUGHOUT THE LAST MONTH, AMBASSADOR YOUNG HAS TAKEN THE LEAD IN DEVELOPING THE IDEAS OF THE WESTERN DEMARCHE IN CAPETOWN AND NOTING ITS URGENCY. WE HAVE CONTINUED TO RESERVE THE POSSIBILITY THAT IT MAY BE DESIRABLE AT A LATER STAGE FOR THE FIVE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES TO TAKE PART IN THE CONFIDENTIAL

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CAPETOWN-BASED TALKS. THE OTHER FOUR MISSIONS DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHY THE US WOULD NOW CONTEMPLATE A CHANGE OF VENUE TO NEW YORK.

F. IF A NEW YORK MEETING WITH THE SAG IS CONSIDERED AS A ONE-SHOT PROPOSITION, IT WOULD BE DILATORY AND NOT SERIOUS. IT IS COMMONLY CONTEMPLATED THAT THE NEXT PHASE OF OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SAG WILL REQUIRE SOME CONSIDERABLE PERIOD OF TIME (A WEEK? MORE?) TO EXPLORE SUCH COMPLICATED MATTERS AS ALTERNATIVE SCENARIOS FOR INDEFINITELY DELAYING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TURNHALLE CONFERENCE CONSTITUTION AND NAMIBIA-WIDE FREE ELECTIONS FOLLOWING A SIX MONTHS CAMPAIGN ON THE BASIS OF ONE ADULT/ONE VOTE. THESE MATTERS CANNOT USEFULLY BE ADDRESSED WITH THE SAG HERE.

G. THE FIVE MAY VERY LIKELY NEED TO BE IN CONTACT WITH LEADERS IN NAMIBIA, WHICH CANNOT BE ACCOMPLISHED FROM THIS DISTANCE.

3. FROM THIS PAROCHIAL VIEWPOINT, IT COULD BE HARMFUL FOR
WESTERN SOLIDARITY -- THUS FAR REMARKABLY FIRM AND EXTENSIVE --
FOR THE US TO INSIST ON HOLDING THE NEXT ROUND OF TALKS IN
NEW YORK. WE URGE AGAINST DOING SO.
SHERER

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